

Remarks

The Office Letter indicates a discrepancy between the specification, which describes only two drawing figures, and the drawings, which are alleged to include Figures 3-5.

Upon review of the image file wrapper, it has been discovered that there has been an office error in making up the image file wrapper for the application. The application was originally filed with a single sheet of drawings showing only Figure 1. The application was also accompanied by an Information Disclosure Statement which included among other references, published German patent application no. DE 44 09 391 A1. This German prior art reference includes four sheets of drawings, but when the image file wrapper was made up, only the first of the four sheets of drawings was included in the foreign reference. The other three sheets of drawings were inadvertently included with the single sheet of drawings for the instant application. Thus the image file wrapper shows a total of four sheets of drawings submitted on January 23, 2001, when it actually should show only one sheet of drawings.

A second sheet of drawings showing an additional drawing figure, numbered as Figure 2, was submitted with an amended Figure 1 on February 4, 2003. These two sheets of drawings including Figures 1 and 2 are the only drawings which should be in the application.

By this amendment, the inadvertently included Figures 3-5 are hereby cancelled.

The specification, which refers only to Figures 1 and 2, is deemed to properly refer to the drawings which should be in the application.

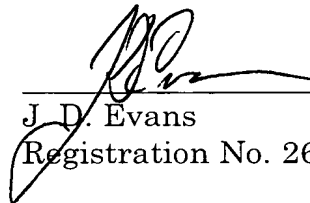
Issuance of the patent with Figures 1 and 2, as submitted on February 4, 2003, is respectfully requested.

Application No. 09/744,297
Reply to Office Letter
April 14, 2005

If there are any questions regarding this submission or the application in general, the Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at 202-624-2845, so that any such questions can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings

Please cancel Figures 3-5 in their entirety.